

# CHARISM OR MEDIALITY?

## THE DIFFICULTY OF DISCERNMENT

*This text has been examined by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, and he confirmed: The text is correct. He said that it was important to deal with this topic, as a lot of mischief is done in this field.*

### The Big Danger of Mediality

Many of us are well informed about spiritual healers, shamans, spiritists, Reiki-masters and other healers and avoid them. But there is another field, where we should be careful by all means. It is MEDIALITY. It often works in secret under the guise of pious healers or wrong visionaries. Many yield to its deceptions out of ignorance. Here, the word of Jesus holds true:

*“Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. “ (Lk 21:8)*

Many seek first contact with such media to become healthier or more concentrated, to have more success at school or in business. Others naively believe that Jesus or Mary speak through them and follow them blindly. Others consult them because they apparently work miracles und can see hidden things.

*“Those who have little experience with occultism and magic, with media and spiritism, are often virtually hooked by such miracle workers.... All other religions agree with mediumistic processes; only Christian faith strongly opposes it. Those who have resorted to fortune-telling, magic or spiritism in their life, find it extremely hard to convert to Christ. He cannot get through to peace and certainty of salvation. If he was a Christian before, a rime and a ban will lie over his life of faith. “*

*(Fr. Anton Beda)*

**Look closely:  
W H O  
speaks or heals?!**

### Testimony by Fr. Joseph-Marie Verlinde (excerpt)

*Jacques Verlinde studied transcendental meditation techniques with a guru in Spain. He became his private secretary and deeply delved into hinduism. He learned everything about the theory and practice of meditation, mastered the postures and breathing techniques of Yoga. In these exercises, the individual consciousness is dissolved. Yet he was repeatedly frightened by this fascinating, but eventually desolate emptiness, which he experienced in doing so.*

*It was not only this emptiness that triggered restlessness in him. With his guru he came across dying persons in the street, who urgently needed help. But they were simply not paid attention. His guru said to him, “Come, let him be, it is about his karma. “ As an explanation he was told that these people had come into misery because of previous bad deeds and that they were now*

paying a “karmic toll”. Who helps them prevents them from experiencing their painful karma in the present life. “Everyone ultimately is on his way to self-deliverance”, the idea says.

Eventually he met a Christian who made his hinduistic universe collapse. This person asked him, **“And who is Jesus Christ now for you?”** Only now Verlinde felt all the misery of his life and for him it was as if Jesus had asked him without reproach or reprimand, **“How much longer do you want to keep me waiting?”** Verlinde cried tears of repentance about this betrayal and was already back to Europe 24 hours later.

He humbly talked about the serious mistake which he made immediately upon his return back home: “As of this moment, I attended Holy Mass daily, went to adoration, also went for confession – but rather superficially, prayed the rosary, but did not have the humility to return into the bosom of the Church by truly confiding myself to a priest. I was not aware of the consequences of my action either, particularly the initiation rites. Even though I could have experienced the spiritual healing which I needed so much in the Church, to get out of the **mediumistic condition**, in which I still was despite my conversion. Thus, I became easy prey for a sect (Rosicrucians), which referred to the name of Jesus but at the same time spoke of karma, energy and reincarnation. This was what I was interested in, I was on familiar territory. “

The leaders of this sect quickly realised that Verlinde was open to occult powers because of all the exercises he had done in India. They explained to him, “Listen, **you have received gifts from God**. You must put yourself at the service of your neighbour.” – Verlinde said “I, fully naive, got involved... I saw what people lacked, I was a sort of clairvoyant. And when I laid my hand on someone, he immediately felt better. So I also was a healer... But soon I could read the thoughts of people. After a very short time I had so many occult skills.”

When he was worried that it could be demons, the leader explained him that it was “healing angels” who gave him those skills. But after a short while this “healing angel” revealed himself during a Holy Mass. He hears this angel speak blasphemies (sacrileges). Immediately he spoke to a priest who as an exorcist of the diocese was well versed in this. Prayers of deliverance were initiated for him over a longer time, until he was delivered. Verlinde said, “this time was one of the toughest in my life. On the other hand, it was also a time of grace, in which I was allowed to internally participate in this spiritual battle between darkness and light. “

**He surrendered all “gifts” to the Lord and lost them instantaneously**, which clearly sheds light on their origin. After his final conversion Jacques Verlinde was ordained ten years later, in 1983.

Verlinde stresses, **“The spirits which sneak into the life of media but also into the lives of those who consult them, generate serious spiritual, mental, emotional and physical problems. The “healings” only shift the symptoms, which often entail worse problems at a different level. Then, only prayers of deliverance help to break the bonds.**

## **On the Discernment of the Spirits (according to Fr. Anton Beda)**

How do I now discern if I am faced with a medium or a servant of God? What is the difference between a Saint and a medium?

We already read in the Old Testament that magicians worked fake miracles: “*The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ‘When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake.’*” So Moses and Aaron went

*to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did **the same** things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs." (Ex 7:8-12)*

At first sight, there seems to be no difference between a medium and a servant of God: Both are in a covenant with higher powers, both do spiritual exercises, both practise a cult and "service of God" vis à vis their God. Because man alone is not able to perform great things. He must connect to a higher intelligence. In the realm of the spirit there are now two different sources. Every man is free and may choose one of them: left or right, God or the devil.

The difference, however, lies in the motivation and the aim. The servants of God do it out of a **different interest** than the media:

- the Saints work selflessly, without selfish aims;
- the Saints only aspire what God wants;
- they practise love also towards their enemies by blessing them.
- their distinctive marks are **LOVE OF THE CROSS** and **LOVE OF THEIR ENEMIES**.

The only **MEDIATOR** of all graces and miracles is Jesus Christ Himself, through whose cross and blood we receive redemption and salvation.

- Those who are active in the occult, however, work out of selfishness, to gain knowledge, power and influence in the world.
- They are not mortified in their desires and use occult knowledge to implement their will and put curses on their enemies.
- Their distinctive marks are **SELF-PRESENTATION** and **LOVE OF PLEASURE**.

"The devil, in order to become active in the visible world, from which he is excluded by his spirit nature, always needs a **MEDIATION** which opens the door to him. The key to this door is the freedom of man (to sin). Because of this, the manifestations of the power of the evil usually require the involvement of a medium, a mediator. " (Corrado Balducci)

*So be careful! Satan often pretends to be a good ANGEL OF LIGHT: "For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. "*

*(2 Cor 11, 13-15)*

The followers of eastern doctrines of enlightenment unconsciously or conscientiously open to a false light, because they open the wrong door wilfully....This leads to seeing hidden things and to miraculous powers. But "...we live by faith, not by sight. " (2 Cor 5:7) As they are occupied by the occult or mediality, such people acquire the gifts of clairvoyance, healing powers and other skills, as we know them from obsessed persons. It is also called calm obsession. It is mediated through "initiation" into the "secret sciences" and is calmer because the "initiated" himself wanted it and surrendered to it voluntarily, whereas other obsessed persons resist it and thus provoke attacks.

"Those who consult such healers or clairvoyants come under the influence of Satan. Also acupuncture in most cases is mediumistic healing" (Fr. Anton Beda). Healers are often very friendly and masters of lie, as is the angel of light. Therefore absolute caution is required!

Healers are no healers but fake healers. Their work, as already mentioned, often only shifts the symptoms.

## Criteria of Discernment

As a help to discern real experiences of the Holy Spirit from the works of the evil spirit, the Holy Scripture mentions three characteristics:

**1st Criterion:** The confession of Jesus Christ who leads us to the Father: *"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God."* (1 Jn 4:1-2)

**2nd Criterion:** The Holy Spirit works the unity and the building up of the body of Christ.

**3rd Criterion:** The Holy Spirit works as fruit: *"... love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."* (Gal 5:22-23)

## Fields of Examination for the Discernment of Charisms

### 1. The Teaching of the Healer/Visionary

*"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."* (Jn 14:26)

\*Does the message of the healer correspond to the teaching of the Catholic faith?

### 2. The Life of the Person of the Healer/Visionary

*"Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"* (Mt 7:22-23)

\*Does the healer/visionary submit obediently to the leadership of the Church, which has the task of discerning the charisms? Or are messages and healings intentionally given resp. worked independent of the authority of the Church?

San Francesco – Fresco of an Exorcism  
(Montefalco/Umbria)

### 3. The Impact (Consequences)

*"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."*  
(1 Cor 12:7)

\*Does the work of the healer/visionary lead to unity and building up Christianity or is there division and sect formation?

\*Does their work bring about a change of life for the good? Does it lead to a vivid relationship with Jesus, to the sacraments of the Church?

### 4. Accompanying Symptoms (The Way the Spirit Is Manifested)

*"Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.'" She kept this up for many days. Finally*

*Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her." (Acts 16:16-18)*

\*Does the charismatic person work with the authorisation of the responsible priest, without self-presentation?

### **5. The Priority (What is the Centre of Faith?)**

*"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!" (Gal 1:8)*

\*Are Jesus Christ, the Crucified and Risen and His gospel the centre of the work?

### **6. The Origin (Source, Trigger)**

\*How or by whom was the "gift" mediated? Which spirit is at work? Is it divine? Is it human? Is it demonic? See the explanation on this in the next chapter:

### **Origin and Trigger of Mediality (According to Fr. Anton Beda)**

*"The word 'medial' comes from Latin 'medius' – middle, lying in between, mediating. Mediality is the characteristic of a person who possesses such mediating skills between the unknown and the known. One may also put it extremely by saying that such a person is a medium between the invisible and the visible." (Dr. Kurt Koch)*

Mediality bears the burnt smell of sorcery. This is reflected in the way it is generated:

1. Through **inheritance** from ancestors who performed magic. If the grandfather or the grandmother e.g. were a spiritist, magician, healer prayer, his children, grand children, and sometimes grand-grand children will show a mediumistic disposition.
2. By **transmission** through a highly mediumistic occult practitioner.
  - a. A strong pendulum practitioner/dowser takes the hand of a non-mediumistic person and guides the pendulum/rod together. By doing so, he transmits mediality.
  - b. During sexual intercourse outside the holy sacrament of Matrimony mediality is transmitted 1:1. (The sacrament of Matrimony is a big protection against contagion).
3. Through magical and spiritistic **experimentation**.
  - a. When someone resorts to being magically healed, he will usually also become mediumistic.
  - b. Those who work with magical books for years will definitely become mediumistic.
4. Through intense **contact with unblest departed souls** (problem of spirits of plague). Here, no prayer of deliverance will help to become free; one should rather ask Jesus to break the bond to those unblest departed souls and lead them to the place which is determined for them.

### **Is the Possession of Inherited Mediumistic Abilities Already a Sin? (acc. to Fr. Paolo Carlin)**

The possession of mediumistic abilities as such is not a sin. But to whom who uses and practises them they will become guilt. The more one uses them, the stronger they will become in number and intensity. This may entail strong spiritual burdens and diseases with oneself or in the life of the children or grandchildren.

The possession of them is a power sent by the evil to emphasize one's own ego. They lead to a thinking that one is strong by oneself. In this way, one removes oneself from the spirit of the gospel. One should always mistrust such a power which makes oneself feel strong by oneself. It is bad when someone discovers such abilities and thinks that they are charismatic gifts.

One may very quickly be delivered from such a mediality by renouncing it in the name of Jesus and by no longer using it.

## Mediality or Charismatic Gift?

### “Gifts“ of Mediality

Inherited mediumistic disposition is often unconscious and discovered one day. Fr. Jean-Régis Froppo warns: *“Watch out, there are also false charisms. The demon may give gifts, information and powers to the person devoted to him, which may go beyond the natural abilities of this person: fortune-telling, knowledge of occult origin, clairvoyance. Caution! “*

Manifestations founded on and worked through mediumistic abilities are: rod sensitivity, pendulum reaction, ability of prophetic dreams and the second sight, gifts of clairvoyance, psychic abilities, ability of trance, hypnosis, mental suggestion, magnetic healing powers, spiritistic healings and operations, telepathy.

Further forms of occult mediality are: spiritistic visions, table moving, glass moving, automatic writing, excursion of the soul, out-of-body-experience, materialisations, transfigurations, translocations, apparitions and disappearitions, levitations, attack and defense magic and many other things.

### Correct Exercise of Charismatic Gifts (according to Fr. Hans Buob SAC)

The charisms of healing referred to by St. Paul (compare 1 Cor:12) are given to us by the Holy Spirit so that we bring about the healing through the grace of Jesus, i.e. a physical or an inner, mental healing and a spiritual healing which results in a deliverance from certain occult obsessions or bonds and from evil spirits.

These gifts are bound to the service which Jesus has entrusted to the Church, i.e. *“... preach the gospel to the whole creation... cast out demons... lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mk 16:15,17,18)*

Fr. Buob writes about his observation: *“When someone... can resort to helpers who have the charism of discernment, on the one hand, this is a great help, but on the other, I would also like to draw attention to a danger I have already succumbed to myself. There are people who pray for someone who has not given them the permission to do so, and who communicate “insights“. This is about people who have converted and now think that their charism has been purified and is true because of their conversion. Here, it is necessary to wait until these persons have been purified by Christ in the whole depth of their lives... Contrary to this, it is extremely helpful to have someone as a priest who has this described charism. But in any case it is decisive that the leadership is in the hands of the priest. **The person equipped with the charism – this is my principle – only prays when he has been mandated and authorised by the priest to do so. This gift of discernment must by all means be placed under obedience because it works through the sensual and, as is known, the demons may also act through it. .... The person who has such a gift particularly needs to be protected, and in his case, obedience is the best protection – apart from the protection by the Blood of the Lamb, which was also shed in obedience.**“*

It is important to exercise charisms in obedience to the leading priest and to the honour of Jesus and Mary. **St. Faustyna Kowalska** was told by Jesus that the devil puts on many false coats to deceive people, also the coat of false humility. But there is one coat he never puts on, that is the coat of obedience to the Church.

## Mediality or Real Visionary?

False visionaries (media) – allegedly see Jesus, Mary or the Saints..... The medium hears the voice of Jesus and reveals himself through wrong statements which are not in line with the teaching of the gospel and the Catholic Church (as for example: *“The time of mercy is over. Jesus goes underground. “ Or: “Who does not believe in this private revelation will be damned. Says the Lord, the Almighty! “*). Media use the authority of Jesus or Mary without any examination by the Church and convey messages to people such as: *“Jesus tells you... . “* Those direct prophecies resp. promises, which are frequently linked to conditions, may often put the addressees under pressure and be an impediment to the peace of the soul; in most cases they are a sign of inspirations from the false side.

**Real visionaries subject themselves to the examination of the Church** and subordinate themselves in obedience (as for example St. Padre Pio). They do not form a new sect and do not instigate against the Pope. Roughly outlined: Conditions for real messages or visions (which e.g. may also be given in the Holy Spirit by the priest in the confession) are always the edification in one's personal discipleship of Christ within and with the Church (therefore the *community* of the faithful, i.e. not in separation resp. in elitist, secret circles), guidance to the regular reception of sacraments taking into consideration the free will of the person, as well as the absence of human, selfish aims, which build upon preferential treatment, isolation or injustice.

Pope Benedict XVI, as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, mandated the draft of a document which describes how difficult it is to discern whether a vision comes from God or one's own imagination, or from the devil. A small overview on the discernment of the spirits can be found in the identically named folder.

The **Folder “The Discernment of the Spirits“** with texts by Giovanni Battista Scaramelli SJ and Fr. Hans Buob SAC and the **accompanying identically titled lecture (Audio CD)** by **Fr. Gabriel Hüger** may be ordered under the address given on the last page.

## Mediality or Real Miracle?

### Media Make Use of Methods to Pretend Miracles

*“The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders. “ (2 Thess 2:9)*

Attention: Miraculous signs are not a sufficient criterion for the fact that the work comes from God! Like the sorcerers of Pharaoh they perform fake miracles with the help of demons. Here, the consequences need to be considered. The holy desert fathers already knew that the devil – who often is the cause of the diseases – may cancel them, if he, in return, receives what is most important, namely the soul of man. As a consequence, those who have been healed can no longer pray or fall into other burdens such as anxieties, depression, suicidal thoughts etc.

### Miracles That Come from Heaven

The Holy Spirit knows exactly what everyone needs and gives the right grace individually. St. Ignatius of Loyola mentions as one characteristic in discerning the spirits that the impact is good from the beginning to the end. The person who has been healed is filled with the fruits of the Holy Spirit, with peace, joy, love, power of faith etc. God's healing always goes along with the human person, respects the individual nature and the physical-spiritual capacity; it respects the natural abilities of human medicine and does not always have to work miracles, if

it is not necessary (for the salvation of the soul of the person concerned) (example: Lourdes); it does not impose the supernatural.

## **Mediality or Real Deliverance from Curses?**

### **Harmonisers – Cleansers – Exorcists**

*“He casts out demons by Be-el’zebul, the prince of demons” (Lk 11:15).* There are cleansers, harmonisers of houses, self-nominated exorcists who replace occult by occult, charging a lot of money. From the outside, this may sound very pious, because there is talk about prayer, of angels etc. But at a closer look negative is replaced by negative. Harmonisers of houses often have strips attached or objects buried, which allegedly are to ward off the evil. It is also not advisable to consult pendulum practitioners or dowzers who have a mediumistic disposition.

### **The Authority of Christ Through the Priestly Blessing**

*“But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Lk 11:20)* By virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders the priest has received the authority from Jesus Christ to lift curses, to bless houses in the authority of the “finger of God”, the Holy Spirit, the love and humility of God: *“By the **priestly blessing** an object or a place is removed from the universal occult influence of the demon. We therefore understand how important this act is and how much we have to see that the objects of worship (crosses, medals), the meals, the houses or vehicles, the workplaces, animals are regularly blessed.” (Jean-Régis Fropon)*

## **Mediality or Salvation through Jesus Christ?**

### **Mediality in Educational Institutions, Seminaries etc.**

Cardinal Paul Josef Cordes opposed the inclusion of far-eastern elements in courses offered by Christian monasteries and institutions. With regard to Yoga, Tai Chi and Chigong, Cordes spoke of “pagan methods” which want to destroy Christianity. Those influences received too much room “under the roof of the Catholic Church.” He called for more clarity instead of a poisonous syncretism. Some proclaim a unity religion, a God of all religions and of all mankind without reference to Jesus Christ.

When priests administer the sacraments, it is Jesus Himself who works the salvation. St. Augustine coined the rule: **The Spirit of God sent to us through Jesus Christ is the one who truly baptizes, whether it is Peter or Paul or even Judas who baptizes.** Irrespective of whether a priest is a Saint or a big sinner, in the holy sacraments (Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick etc.) we always encounter Jesus who delivers and heals us through His Holy Spirit.

But when a priest works outside the sacraments, he can very well transmit his mediality, if, for example, he practises Reiki, Prana, Yoga, shamanism, Zen-meditations etc. Here, a close look is necessary, and such courses – even if they are offered by priests or religious – are to be avoided.

According to Anton Beda, in the eastern world (India) 95 per cent of all people have a mediumistic disposition. If priests coming from this region melt the faith in the Holy Trinity



with the faith in the hinduistic trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, and on top of this practise Yoga, extreme caution is required.

## **Yoga and Mediality (according to Fr. Clemens Pilar Cop)**

Those Indians who brought yoga to the West approximately 100 years ago never left the slightest doubt about the fact that **Yoga is the religious path of salvation of hinduistic beliefs**. The term Yoga is derived from “yuj”, which means „tie up“, “hitch up“, “yoke“ or “unite“. The spiritual tradition of India is based on the four basic notions of **Karma, Maya, Nirvana** and **Yoga**. The term Yoga covers all methods and techniques through which man can overcome his lack of knowledge, ascend to the divine and attain the ultimate liberation from the wheel of rebirths (Samsara, literally “continuous wandering“: the designation for the eternal cycle of being, the cycle of life and death) through enlightenment.

The exorcist Jean-Régis Fropro warns: *“The way of Yoga is not without danger, be it on a psychological or on a spiritual level. Experience has shown us that **occult bonds** may come about, which step by step restrict man in his inner freedom. Peace and happiness in the conversations with God but also in the relationships with others gradually diminish. This may lead to **severe depressions**. I furthermore add that several times I had to speak a prayer of deliverance for people who had practised Yoga.“*

*Those who have one experienced a depression know how terrible it is.  
It is best to avoid causes like Yoga from the very beginning.*

## **Testimony by Fr. Joseph-Marie Verlinde: Yoga Is By No Means Neutral**

*Man continuously strives..... to get rid of the apparent, to delve into the self – in the “mystical“ unification with this highest reality, this big, cosmic wholeness. Yoga is one of the preferred paths leading there...*

*For us Christians, who we have the unbelievable grace to know the self-revelation of God – the revelation of a personal, transcendent God who created the world and man out of **love**, and who calls every man to let himself be fulfilled by His love – for us, the Indian pantheism inspite of its nobility is a step backwards. An the practice of yoga actually is a dangerous spiritual **trap**.*

*Man is not destined to dissolve in an unpersonal cosmic energy, even if it is considered as divine. Placed on the top of creation by God, whom Jesus calls His and our Father, man is called to participate in the **divine life of the Trinity** by receiving the Holy Spirit, who makes him a son in the only Son.*

*Even without any spiritual striving, Yoga as such is an extremely effective method which consists in awakening natural energies that lie dormant in us – by trying to control them – trying to unite them with what hinduism calls the self...*

*Yes, Yoga releases very real, however very mysterious **psychosomatic energies** in us and makes it possible to reach extraordinary conditions. I myself have practised and taught techniques of **levitation** (of floating)...*

*These powers activated by Yoga without any doubt are nothing but natural energies; but when I was confronted with such phenomena – on which I do not wish to further elaborate – I arrived at the conclusion that evil (satanic) spirits were involved...*

*I would like to say something similar about the powerful “abilities” which burdened me after my return back home (and this is a rather weak expression). **I gained those powers there through the initiation into Eastern rites and practices.** They are identical with the ones that are aspired and realised in esoteric occultism, particularly in the form of New Age which is spread today...*

*For a Christian who has become the temple of the Holy Spirit to walk on such paths, to me, seems like self-deception and arrogance. I would like to repeat: **Yoga was developed to achieve a certain goal, becoming one with the self...***

*You only practise Yoga two hours per week? In the beginning you will have problems to take up the right postures, but slowly you achieve progress. And, whether you want it or not, you will activate the Kundalini (snake energy) in you. And even if you do not experience any “enlightenment” the physical and spiritual “shaping” which goes hand in hand with it will not remain without influence on your metabolism and your psychological balance.*

*Why undergo the risk of embarking on such a way, if there are other methods of relaxation... which lead to a development of personality and do not include a view which is not compatible with the Jewish-Christian revelation of God and man. Whichever form of Yoga is practised and whatever may be the intention of the person practising it, **Yoga is never “neutral”.** (Famille Chrétienne dated 2 September, 1993)*

## **Hinduistic Influences When Being “Slain in the Spirit”**

A closer look is also required when it comes to the so-called being “slain in the spirit”. When it is administered by persons (priests) who are influenced by far-eastern religions, it cannot be excluded that they do not mediate the Holy Spirit but the **Shakti-energy**. This brings us to the field of mediality. Being “slain in the spirit” is also known as “alpha-calm” in esotericism. Here, people fall over when being touched on the forehead. Which spirit is at work here?

Dr. Kurt Koch says, “Being slain in the spirit” came from India via the USA to Europe. Shakti pat, the light stroke (or touch) is an expression of the process that a guru touches the forehead of a worshipper with his hand. Thus, **supranatural effects** are achieved. Shakti means power. When a guru applies this Shakti pat, he becomes a channel for original power... The supranatural power of Shakti may throw the worshipper on the floor through the touch of the guru. The worshipper, when being laid hands upon by the guru, may see a bright light or experience an inner enlightenment or vision, and may sometimes also have other mystical or psychic experiences.

*The power which comes through the Shakti pat, stems from the Goddess Shiwa. Shiwa is one of the most important Hindu gods. He represents the principle of destruction... Here, there can be no doubt about the fact that this original (cosmic) power comes from demons... Here, we are clearly faced with an intrusion of eastern, pagan religions into Christianity. It should actually be said even more radically: From the perspective of religious history, tilting backwards which is caused through mediality is religiously wrapped spiritism. It is the satanic counterpiece to being filled with the Holy Spirit. It is the best seduction Satan has invented and accomplished.”*

## **Jesus Christ Is the Only MEDIATOR**

Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. He is our Redeemer and our Saviour. We do not have to work with “hands and feet” to redeem ourselves. We may accept the gift of

redemption from Jesus. Jesus Himself says about Himself: *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."* (Jn 14:6)

This is the teaching of the Church: *"Who knows Jesus, has no other way to God!"* (Placuit Deo). The place where Jesus mediates His salvation to us is the Church through the **holy sacraments**: *"With the grace of the seven sacraments, believers continually grow and are spiritually renewed, especially when the journey becomes more difficult."* (ibid)

Thus, we may "activate" the power of Jesus through the holy sacraments, where Jesus Himself mediates salvation. Sacrament means the **immediate presence of Jesus** under visible sign: Therefore, let us again and again give our concrete needs, hardships, our misery to Jesus and say to him trustfully: **"Jesus, Take Care of Everything!"** – Especially in dark hours and hopeless situations the total surrender to the Saviour may be particularly fruitful. How this can work is described by a lecture and a folder on this topic.

The **Folder "Jesus, Take Care of Everything!"** with the text by Don Dolindo Ruotolo and the **respective Lecture (Audio CD)** by Fr. Alois Hüger may also be ordered (contact data see last page)

## **The Seven Sacraments of the Church As Biggest Sources of Salvation and Graces**

*Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law. There are seven: Baptism, Confirmation (or Chrismation), the Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life:<sup>1</sup> they **give birth and increase, healing and mission** to the Christian's life of faith. There is thus a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of the spiritual life.*

*Following this analogy, the first chapter will expound the three sacraments of Christian initiation; the second, the sacraments of healing; and the third, the sacraments at the service of communion and the mission of the faithful. This order, while not the only one possible, does allow one to see that the sacraments form an organic whole in which each particular sacrament has its own vital place. In this organic whole, the Eucharist occupies a unique place as the 'Sacrament of sacraments': 'all the other sacraments are ordered to it as to their end' (St. Thomas Aquinas)". (CCC 1210-1211)*

## **The Sacraments of Initiation**

*"The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life. The **sharing in the divine nature** given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are **born anew** by Baptism, **strengthened** by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity' (Paul VI)." (CCC 1212)*

- **Baptism:** We "activate" the baptismal grace by renouncing all evil (possibly all mediocrity) and by our faithful surrender to Jesus Christ. By trustfully using the blessed water we invoke our sonship and ask our Father in Heaven for His graces.
- **Confirmation:** We "activate" the grace of confirmation in prayer, particularly by contemplating the word of God (Holy Scripture). Someone called the word of God the tabernacle in which the Holy Spirit dwells.

- **Eucharist:** In the Holy Mass – when we attend it with full awareness – Jesus makes us become one with His love. He helps us surrender ourselves by the power of His presence! Let us again and again place our needs on the altar during the Holy Mass.

## The Sacraments of Healing

*“Through the sacraments of Christian initiation, man receives the new life of Christ. Now we carry this life “in earthen vessels,” (2 Cor 4:7) and it remains “hidden with Christ in God. “ (Col 3:3). We are still in our “earthly tent” subject to suffering, illness and death. This new life as a child of God can be weakened and even lost by sin.*

*The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies, who **forgave the sins** of the paralytic and **restored him to bodily health**, has willed **that his Church continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, his work of healing and salvation**, even among her own members. This is the purpose of the two sacraments of healing: the sacrament of Penance and the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.” (KKK 1420-1421)*

- **Penance:** In confession, Jesus Himself delivers us through His power from all sins, bonds, unhealthy addictions and attachments! It is the strongest prayer of deliverance, because it is Jesus Himself who acts.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** In the Anointing of the Sick, Jesus Himself comes to us and places His healing hand on us. He consoles and strengthens us in our suffering.

## The Sacraments at the Service of Communion

*“Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are sacraments of Christian initiation. They ground the common vocation of all Christ's disciples, a vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world. They confer the graces needed for the life according to the Spirit during this life as pilgrims on the march towards the homeland.*

*Two other sacraments, Holy Orders and Matrimony, are **directed towards the salvation of others**; if they contribute as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that they do so. They confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God.*

*Through these sacraments those already consecrated by Baptism and Confirmation for the common priesthood of all the faithful can receive **particular consecrations**. Those who receive the sacrament of Holy Orders are consecrated in Christ's name ‘to feed the Church by the word and grace of God’ (LG 11). ‘On their part, Christian spouses are fortified and, as it were, consecrated for the duties and dignity of their state by a special sacrament. ‘ (GS 48:2).“ (CCC 1533-1535)*

- **Holy Orders:** In ordination, Jesus Himself starts to work through the priest, particularly when he administers the sacraments.
- **Matrimony:** In the sacrament of Matrimony the spouses may daily invite Jesus into their matrimonial life and confide their worries to Him. One lady in her sorrow made Jesus “responsible“ for their marriage and could feel the help on the very same day.

*The accompanying Lecture (Audio CD – Part 1 and 2) “Charism or Mediality – the Difficulty of Discernment“ by Fr. Gabriel Hüger can be ordered under the address given below resp. listened to and/or downloaded on [www.segenskreis.com](http://www.segenskreis.com)*

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LITERATURE USED IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

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